

Message Text

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21

ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ARA-06 EA-07 EUR-12 NEA-10 IO-11 ISO-00

FEA-01 AGR-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FRB-03

H-02 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 LAB-04 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01

AID-05 CIEP-01 SS-15 STR-04 TAR-01 TRSE-00 PRS-01

SP-02 OMB-01 NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 OES-03

XMB-02 /132 W

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FM AMEMBASSY BERN

TO SECSTATE IMMEDIATE 2073

USMISSION OECD PARIS IMMEDIATE

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY DUBLIN

AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE

AMEMBASSY HELSINKI

AMEMBASSY LISBON

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

AMEMBASSY MADRID

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY PARIS UNN

AMEMBASSY REYKJAVIK

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY STOCKHOLM

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

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USMISSION EC BRUSSELS UNN

USMISSION GENEVA
USDEL MTN GENEVA UNN

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: ETRD, OECD, SZ
SUBJECT: OECD TRADE COMMITTEE MEETING FEBRUARY 3-4; GSP AND MTN

REF: STATE 021620

1. ECON/COM COUNSELOR HAS INFORMED SWISS (ROETHLISBERGER, CHIEF, OF THE DEVELOPMENT DIVISION, DIVISION OF COMMERCE AND OTHERS) OF U.S. VIEWS AND PLANNED INITIATIVE IN ACCORDANCE PARA 4 REFTEL.

2. THE IMMEDIATE SWISS REACTION IS THAT THEY HAVE MISGIVINGS ABOUT USING A PAPER WHICH THEY CHARACTERIZE AS PREPARED HASTILY FOR QUITE A DIFFERENT PURPOSE AS A BASIS FOR A PART OF THE DC POSITION FOR THE CIEC. WHILE THEY AGREE WITH THE POINTS MADE IN THAT PAPER, THEY WONDER WHETHER ONE RESULT OF A U.S. EFFORT TO OBTAIN ENDORSEMENT OF ITS PRINCIPLES AT THIS MEETING WOULD NOT RESULT IN TOO MUCH TIME CONCENTRATING ON THIS ONE ISSUE AND NOT ENOUGH ON ALL THE OTHERS WHICH THEY BELIEVE SHOULD BE DISCUSSED UNDER AGENDA ITEM 3.

3. SWISS MISGIVINGS ABOUT, CONCENTRATING ON THIS ISSUE ARE RELATED TO THEIR CONCERN THAT THE CIEC NOT, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, DEVELOPE INTO YET ANOTHER FORUM IN WHICH BLOC CONFRONTS BLOC. THEY HOPE THAT, PERHAPS THROUGH USING THE CO-CHAIRMAN OF EACH COMMISSION TO PRODUCE WORKING PAPERS BASED ON COMMISSION DISCUSSIONS, IT MIGHT BE POSSIBLE TO ACHIEVE ONE OF THE GOALS OF THE CIEC; CONSTRUCTIVE DEBATE OF THE REAL ISSUES AS OPPOSED TO EMOTIONAL RHETORICAL EXCHANGES. THEY QUESTION, THEREFORE, THE WISDOM OF THE TACTIC OF LINKING PREPARATIONS FOR THE CIEC SO DIRECTLY WITH THOSE FOR UNCTAD IV.

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4. WE STRESSED THAT THE U.S. BY NO MEANS INTENDED, IN PLANNING THIS INITIATIVE, TO PRECLUDE OR LIMIT DISCUSSION OF ISSUES OTHER THAN THOSE COVERED BY THE GROUP B STATEMENT PREPARED FOR USE IN THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PREFERENCES. THE RESPONSE WAS THAT THE EFFORT COULD WELL BE PRECISELY THAT BECAUSE THE AVAILABLE TIME IS LIKELY TO BE USED UP IN AN EFFORT TO CONVERT THE GROUP B STATEMENT TO ONE WHICH COULD BE ENDORSED AT

THE TC MEETING.

5. SWISS EMPHASIZED THAT THESE WERE PRELIMINARY VIEWS. THEY WILL GIVE US AN ANSWER ON FEBRUARY 2 AS TO WHETHER THEY WOULD BE WILLING TO ENDORSE A STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF THE GROUP B STATEMENT AT THE TC.

6. ACTION REQUESTED: WE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING ANY ARGUMENTATION THE DEPARTMENT CAN PROVIDE WHICH WOULD SERVE IN COUNTERING OR ALLEVIATING SWISS CONCERN. IN ORDER TO HAVE AN EFFORT ON THEIR POSITION WE WOULD HAVE TO RECEIVE IT BY OPENING OF BUSINESS FEBRUARY 2.
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Message Attributes

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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